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# Bush's Office Revises Rodriguez Chronology

*Vice President's Staff Says Aide Met Last June With Contra Resupply Operative*

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A The office of Vice President Bush disclosed yesterday that it had failed to report on a meeting last June between one of Bush's national security advisers and Felix L. Rodriguez, an operative in the secret resupply mission for the Nicaraguan contras.

A Bush has maintained he provided "full disclosure" of his and his staff's contacts with Rodriguez, a former CIA official, in a chronology issued last Dec. 15. This is the second time the Bush staff has acknowledged that the chronology was incomplete.

Bush has repeatedly said that his office was not directing or coordinating the resupply missions, which occurred at a time when Congress had cut off military aid to the contras.

Bush's counsel, C. Boyden Gray, disclosed that the December chronology omitted mention of a meeting between Rodriguez and Army Col. Samuel J. Watson, deputy national security adviser to Bush. The meeting occurred June 25 in Watson's office in the Old Executive Office Building.

Gray said the meeting was overlooked because it was recorded in Watson's personal files and was not on his official daily schedule.

Gray said Rodriguez was accompanied to the office by retired Air Force colonel Robert Dutton, who worked on the resupply missions with retired Air Force major general Richard V. Secord and National Security Council aide Lt. Col. Oliver L. North, who was fired in November. Dutton did not participate in the 20-minute meeting with Rod-

riguez and Watson, Gray said. Rodriguez and Dutton came to the office, however, after meeting with North elsewhere in the White House complex, another source said.

A Bush's national security adviser, Donald P. Gregg, has maintained that he and his staff did not discuss with Rodriguez the secret resupply mission for the contras until last Aug. 8. Gregg has said that numerous contacts with Rodriguez concerned his activities helping the El Salvadoran Air Force conduct counterinsurgency raids against leftist guerrillas.

Rodriguez, a longtime friend of Gregg who served with him in Vietnam, had been sent to El Salvador with the recommendation of Gregg and Bush to help fight the Salvadoran insurgency. However, according to a letter recently made public,

Rodriguez was secretly recruited in September 1985 by North to help him set up the resupply missions at the same time, working from the Salvadoran Air Force base at Ilopango.

When one of the resupply planes crashed over Nicaragua last October, the first word came from Rodriguez to Watson, according to the Bush chronology.

Gray said yesterday that Watson maintains that the omitted June 25 meeting was about counterinsurgency in El Salvador, not about the contras. However, Watson has no notes or documents to verify what was said. Rather, he turned over to investigators a pocket-size card showing his schedule for the day in which he noted in handwriting, "1:30—Felix."

In a written statement, Gray said

a search of Bush's files shows that the vice president never talked about the contras with Rodriguez. Bush met Rodriguez three times in 1985 and 1986. The statement also said Gregg was "never involved" in "directing, coordinating or approving military aid to the contras in Nicaragua."

Gray also said that the vice president was unaware of the omitted June 25 meeting.

Gregg has acknowledged that his friend Rodriguez came to him last Aug. 8 to tell him of problems in the resupply operation and that, in response, Gregg convened a meeting of administration officials in his office four days later.

Gray said yesterday that Rodriguez and Watson talked about the Salvadoran military's need for helicopter parts from the United States, a subject that, according to the chronology, they also discussed on April 30.

Gray said Gregg was in Jordan at the time of the June visit and that the vice president did not see Rodriguez then. Secord had made a reference to a possible meeting with Bush in his testimony last week.

After the chronology was issued Dec. 15, Bush aides admitted that it omitted two trips that Watson made to contra training camps in Honduras.

Gregg initially denied to reporters that he ever talked about the contras with Rodriguez, also known as Max Gomez. "The only thing that I talked to Max about was his involvement in the insurgency in El Salvador," Gregg said then. He later acknowledged talking with Rodriguez about the contras.

The vice president has defended Gregg and said he was "not in the least bit troubled" by his aide's actions.

However, some other Bush advisers have pressed for Gregg's resignation. Gregg has said he twice offered to resign but has since decided not to because it would cause Bush more harm than good. Other officials have said that Bush would not ask for Gregg's resignation. Gregg did not return a call for comment.